REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Actions dated November 20, 2003 and April 26, 2004. Claims 1-60, 100, 113, 123 and 130-131 have been canceled. Thus, claims 61-99, 101-112, 114-122, 124-129 and 132-140 are now pending.

Formalities

Regarding the IDS mentioned in paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the references requested by the Examiner are attached hereto. In particular, JP 2822983 (w/partial translation) and the Yamahara article submitted on July 15, 2003 have been re-filed with this amendment so that the Examiner can consider the same.

With respect to paragraph 3 of the Office Action, subject matter of claim 131 has been added to claim 121. Thus, the formality objection has been addressed and resolved in this regard.

Claim 61

Claim 61 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Yamahara in view of Maekawa, Jones, and Etori. This 4-way Section 103(a) rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 61 as amended requires liquid crystal display device which utilizes at least light from a backlight to display images . . . . an antiglare layer provided on a viewer side of one of the pair of polarizers which is provided closer to a viewer; wherein the phase compensation element comprises indices of refraction na, nb and nc, and directions corresponding thereto, wherein na>nb and nc>nb, wherein the direction corresponding to

nb is inclined . . . . a haze value of the antiglare layer is equal to or greater than 15 and a value of transmitted image clarity of the antiglare layer is equal to or greater than 10 as measured with an image clarity meter in which a width of an optical comb is 0.5 mm, and wherein the antiglare layer has an internal scattering layer and a scattering surface." In other words, claim 61 clearly requires a combination of both: (a) the use of an antiglare film having a haze value of at least 15 to achieve excellent image clarity, in (b) an LCD which uses a backlight to display images (e.g., light from the backlight passes through the LC cell to display images). For purposes of example and without limitation, example transmissive-type displays are discussed in the instant specification at page 14, lines 17-26. The use of an antiglare film having a haze value of at least 15 in a backlight inclusive LCD is not disclosed or suggested by the cited art.

The Office Action relies solely on Etori for a haze value of at least 15. However, Etori relates only to ***reflective*** type LCDs. The only reason Etori uses a haze value of at least 30 is to improve reflection characteristics of *reflective* type displays (e.g., col. 1, lines 6-11; and col. 5, lines 1-11). Etori explains that the high haze values used in Etori are advantageous because such high haze values "make it possible to obtain an extremely high reflective index for diffused light when the obtained front scattering film 5 is laminated on an object exhibiting *mirror reflection*, and thus the white state of liquid crystal display using a *mirror reflection board as a reflective layer* can be made closer to paper-like whiteness" (col. 5, lines 1-11).

Thus, it will be appreciated by the Examiner that the only reason why Etori uses the high haze values is because of the reflective nature of the display. Etori confirms this by explaining that the purpose of the antiglare film in Etori is for "heightening the aluminum reflectance Y" of the reflective layer to make the white state white like paper (e.g., col. 13, lines 7-9).

In view of the above, it is clear that Etori's high haze values are only applicable to reflective type LCDs. One of ordinary skill in the art would never have used the antiglare film with high haze values of Etori in displays using backlight(s) such as in Yamahara because Etori's anti-glare film is specifically designed to increase aluminum reflectance Y in reflective displays – and is not applicable to displays using at least transmissive light like Yamahara. Accordingly, claim 61 as amended clearly defines over the cited art, and the Section 103(a) rejection should be withdrawn for at least the aforesaid reasons.

Other Claims

Independent claims 79, 94, 108 and 121 also require a backlight and/or transmissive light, in combination with a haze value of at least 15. As explained above, the cited art fails to disclose or suggest this combination required by these independent claims. In particular, Etori's high haze values are only applicable to reflective type LCDs. One of ordinary skill in the art would never have used the antiglare film with high haze values of Etori in displays using backlight(s) such as in Yamahara because Etori's anti-glare film is specifically designed to increase aluminum reflectance Y in reflective displays – and is not applicable to displays like Yamahara.

Additionally, with respect to claim 121, Jones uses an internal diffusing layer on the inside of the cell between the liquid crystal layer and the substrate. In light of Jones' teaching of an internal diffusing layer, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to have provided a layer with a scattering surface on the viewer side of the front polarizer. In other words, Jones teaches direction away from the invention of claim 121 in this regard, as Jones teaches away from providing an antiglare layer such as that of Maekawa on the viewer side of the front polarizer. Thus, the Section 103(a) combination should be withdrawn for yet another reason in this respect.

Conclusion

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that all rejections be withdrawn. All claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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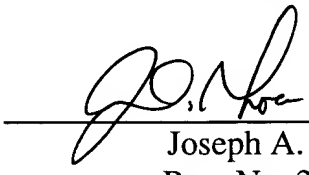
By: 

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